



Arizona-Mexico Commission
Arizona & Sonora: Evolution of a Region
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Competitiveness & Infrastructure Meeting
Friday, June 20, 2014 - 10:30 a.m.

Good morning!

First, let me begin by recognizing all the mayors, border leaders, and government representatives who made the trip to Phoenix today. It's great to see you all!

I want to give a special "thank you" to Ana Luisa Fajer and Francisco Hernandez, who traveled from Mexico to share their insight and expertise with us.

After seeing these presentations, it is evident that many projects and initiatives can help improve our competitiveness and trade flows ... and fortunately, we have the right people working on them!

Arizona and its federal partners have made substantial investments in border infrastructure projects. But -- as we have seen today -- there is much more to do, on both sides of the border.

The new proposed commercial port of entry in Douglas will not only improve trade flows through eastern Arizona, it will also reduce traffic congestion through the center of town.

I join Mayor Ortega in the concern that dangerous substances are crossing through the middle of Douglas.

Moving the vehicles carrying these substances to a better-equipped location is a high priority for everyone. The expansion of San Luis II to allow auto traffic is part of a broader, long-term strategy to improve the situation there.

The pictures of the line of cars that Mayor Sanchez shared with us are very telling.

Moving some car traffic out of the downtown area will greatly alleviate congestion for everyone ... while boosting commerce and competitiveness in the region.

Lastly, the military inspection point south of Nogales -- although an extremely important security measure -- is sending a message that other corridors are more efficient, as they are not faced with long waits to get through checkpoints.

It is important that unintended consequences of these inspections are considered and addressed.

Delays at this inspection facility affect the flow of cargo. And that's not just in Arizona and Sonora but throughout the entire corridor that connects Central Mexico to the Pacific Coast, and up through Sonora and Arizona to the Western United States and Canada.

It has long-reaching impact. Arizona will continue to work with all levels of government in Mexico and the United States to reduce the wait times and continue developing a competitive commercial corridor.

Thank you all again for being here.

Let's keep up the great work!